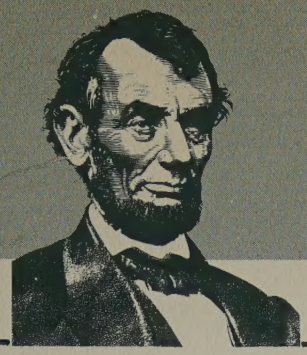


Lincoln Lore

Bulletin of The Lincoln National Life Foundation . . . Dr. R. Gerald McMurtry, Editor
Published each month by The Lincoln National Life Insurance Company, Fort Wayne, Indiana

Number 1483 Fort Wayne, Indiana September, 1961

Carpenter's Painting: "The First Reading of the Emancipation Proclamation Before the Cabinet" Part II

(Continued from August 1961, issue)

After more than a year's labor on the engraving it was nearly completed. However, before the engraving was finished a fire consumed the studio where Ritchie was engraving the plate and the small painting by Carpenter, valued then at $2,500 was destroyed. Due to the wise precautions of J. C. Derby the steel plate was stored at night in a fire-proof building and it was not involved in the fire. The burning of this small painting gave rise to the erroneous rumor that the large painting had been destroyed.

Connoisseurs of steel engravings have commented that Ritchie put into his engraving the same amount of dedication and purpose as did Carpenter in the execution of his painting. Needless to state Carpenter expressed himself as being entirely satisfied with the reproduction of his picture. By the process of engraving great quantities of the picture were widely distributed, although the publishers attempted to create the impression that only a limited number of prints could be taken from the plate. The actual size of the engraving (not including margins) is twenty-one inches by thirty-two inches and artists proofs sold for $25.00, India proofs $15.00 and plain prints $5.00. Signed artists proofs were advertised at $50.00. However, one advertiser offered the first 1000 copies of the plain prints at $1.00 each. Today's catalogue prices range from $25.00 to $75.00 for the engraving. Even today the Ritchie engraving is not rare, although it was published by Derby & Miller of New York as early as May 1, 1866. All the members of the cabinet were the recipients of complimentary copies of the engraving and a long list of the prominent men of the nation became original subscribers for the picture.

Carpenter's painting was purchased by Mrs. Elizabeth Thompson of New York City for $25,000 and it was presented to the United States government on February 12, 1878. There was a formal presentation of some importance. The occasion of the presentation of the paint-

From The Lincoln National Life Foundation

Photograph of "The First Reading Of The Emancipation Proclamation Before The Cabinet—From the original picture painted at the White House in 1864." Painted by F. B. Carpenter and engraved by A. H. Ritchie.

ing was marked by a joint session of both houses of Congress, and the relatives of President Lincoln and of members of the Civil War cabinet were admitted to the floor of the House. Two addresses were delivered, one by General James A. Garfield of Ohio, and the other by Alexander H. Stephens, (formerly vice-president of the Confederacy) a representative from Georgia. The Senate and House jointly thanked Mrs. Thompson for her generous gift and a committee was appointed "to cause said painting to be placed in an appropriate and conspicious place in the capitol" and the committee was further ordered to "carefully provide for its preservation". The place designated for its exhibition was the east staircase of the House wing of the capitol. However, in September, 1941, the painting was placed in the old Supreme Court Chamber near the Senate Chamber. The old Supreme Court Chamber was used as the Senate Chamber from 1819 to 1859 and by the Supreme Court from 1860 to 1935. The present location of the painting is a desirable one. The reason for the change in location was the placing of the new Christie picture of the "Signing of the Constitution" in the place formally occupied by the Carpenter painting.

For some reason Carpenter felt called upon to make changes in his large original painting. Previous to its New York showing in 1864 the artist retouched some injuries and remedied some defects in minor details. However, these injuries and defects required thirty-six hours of work by Carpenter who labored without intermission. It is surprising to learn that a number of differences can be noted between the original painting and Ritchie's engraving, despite the fact that the sub-title of the picture states that the engraving is "From the original picture painted at the White House in 1864". A promotional pamphlet published by The Derby & Miller Publishing Company, 5 Spruce Street, New York also states, "that it (the engraving) is a perfect reproduction of the painting, to the minutest detail . . ."

There is also a photograph of a painting by Carpenter of the reading of the Emancipation Proclamation which shows the work in a transitional stage. Nevertheless, those collectors who own the Ritchie engraving do not have an exact facsimile of the Carpenter painting which eventually came into the possession of the United States government. This fact was brought out in *Lincoln Lore*, No. 528, May 22, 1939, under the title "Carpenter's Emancipation Painting". Even so, it is probably correct to state that the Ritchie engraving has greater artistic quality than the original Carpenter painting.

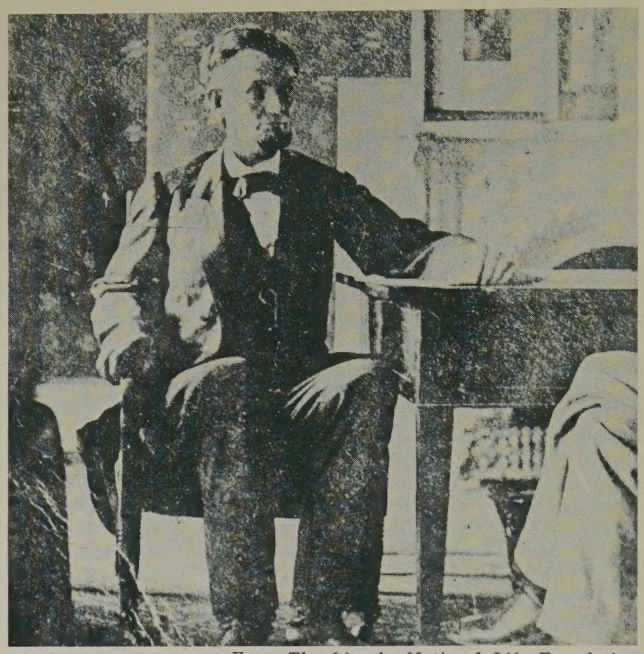
The differences between the original canvas and the Ritchie engraving can be seen in the position of the chair occupied by Lincoln. In the engraving Lincoln's chair is "set parallel with the table and the position of Lincoln's body is directly to the front with the head slightly turned to the left. In the . . . painting the chair in which Lincoln is seated is placed at an angle of forty-five degrees with the table. The position of the body is changed and the height of the body is raised to give Lincoln a more prominent place in the group. The whole tendency is to make a more stately Lincoln and a more commanding presence. The features of Lincoln are also greatly changed with an approach toward the idealistic.

"Another change in the capitol painting which is noticeable immediately upon comparison with the Ritchie engraving is the position of one of the manuscripts. In the (engraving) Lincoln appears holding the Proclamation in his left hand which rests in his lap, but in the capitol copy, although still holding the paper in his left hand, it reclines upon the table.

"The inkstand and the quill pen at Seward's right hand in the (engraving) have also been shifted, the former moved to the other side of the table and the pen placed in Lincoln's right hand. Other changes of minor importance are noted in the capitol painting."

The photograph of the canvas in the transitional stage shows a still different head of Lincoln. However, the inkstand has been moved toward Lincoln with the quill pen in place. The capitol painting reveals Lincoln holding the quill pen in his right hand.

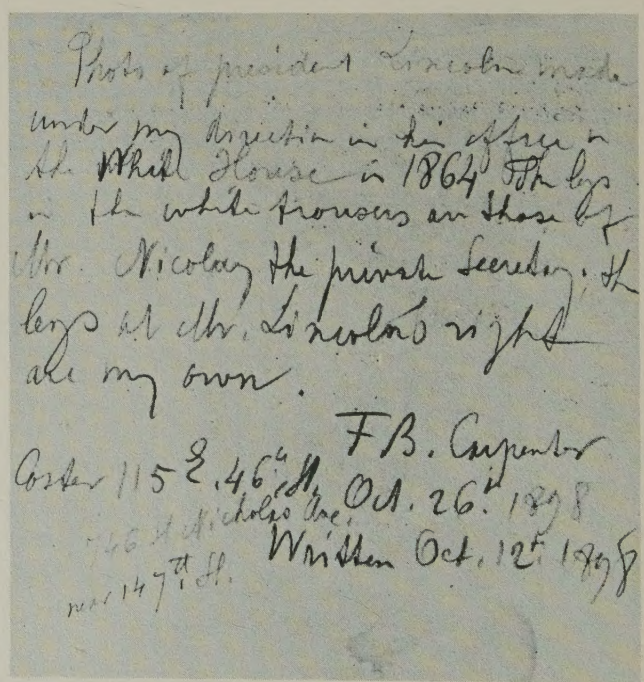
Despite these discrepancies as noted between the Ritchie engraving and the original painting, with the transitional picture brought in to complete the study, it can be assumed that "The Proclamation of Emancipation" will long remain one of the great historical paintings of our nation.



From The Lincoln National Life Foundation

Meserve No. 106—Lorant No. 74

Photograph of Abraham Lincoln taken by A. Berger, Mathew B. Brady's assistant, on April 26, 1864. According to Carpenter's penciled notation on the back of this photograph "the legs in the white trousers are those of Mr. Nicolay the private secretary. The legs on Mr. Lincoln's right are my own."



From The Lincoln National Life Foundation

The penciled notation by F. B. Carpenter on the back side of the Lincoln photograph (Meserve No. 106—Lorant No. 74). This photograph was originally a part of the Winfred Porter Truesdell Collection.

Lincoln Carried No Life Insurance

There are no records available to indicate that Abraham Lincoln had any life insurance protection for his family during his life time. However, this was not due to any reluctance on the part of the industry's sales organization to approach the future president in regard to the matter.

Lincoln was nominated for the presidency by the Republican National Convention in Chicago, Illinois on May 18th, 1860, and on May 29th, just eleven days later the nominee was solicited for a $2,000 life insurance contract.

W. H. Bridgman, an agent with L. O. Olmstead & Co., a Chicago loan agency, collection and insurance office wrote Lincoln the following letter:

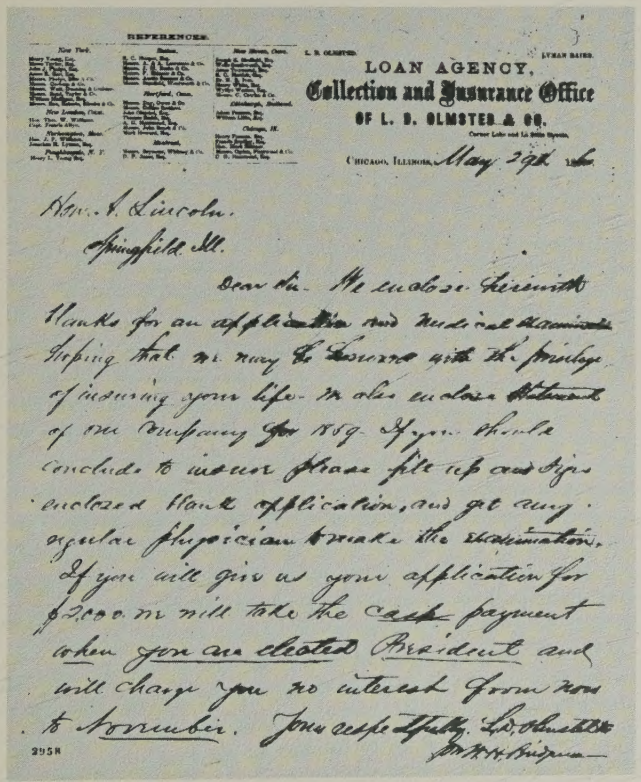
"Chicago, Ill.
May 29, 1860

"Hon. A. Lincoln
Springfield, Ill.
Dear Sir:

"We enclose herewith blanks for an application and medical examination, hoping that we may be honored with the privilege of insuring your life. We also enclose a statement of our company for 1859. If you should conclude to insure, please fill out and sign enclosed blank application and get any regular physician to make the examination. If you will give us your application for $2,000 we will take the cash payment, when you are elected president, and will charge you no interest from now to November.

"Yours respectfully
L. O. Olmstead & Co.
pr. W. H. Bridgman*

Was Lincoln insurable? There is no record of Mr. Lincoln ever having been thoroughly examined by a medical doctor during his term in office. Of course during Lincoln's life time insurance had not been popularized. This fact is born out by the records of The Institute of Life Insurance. In 1865, the year of Lincoln's death, only 581 million dollars of life insurance was in force. It would be more surprising to discover that Lincoln made such provisions for his wife and family than it is to learn that he carried no life insurance.


REFERENCES.

LOAN AGENCY,
Collection and Insurance Office
OF L. O. OLMSTEAD & CO.
Corner Lake and La Salle Streets.

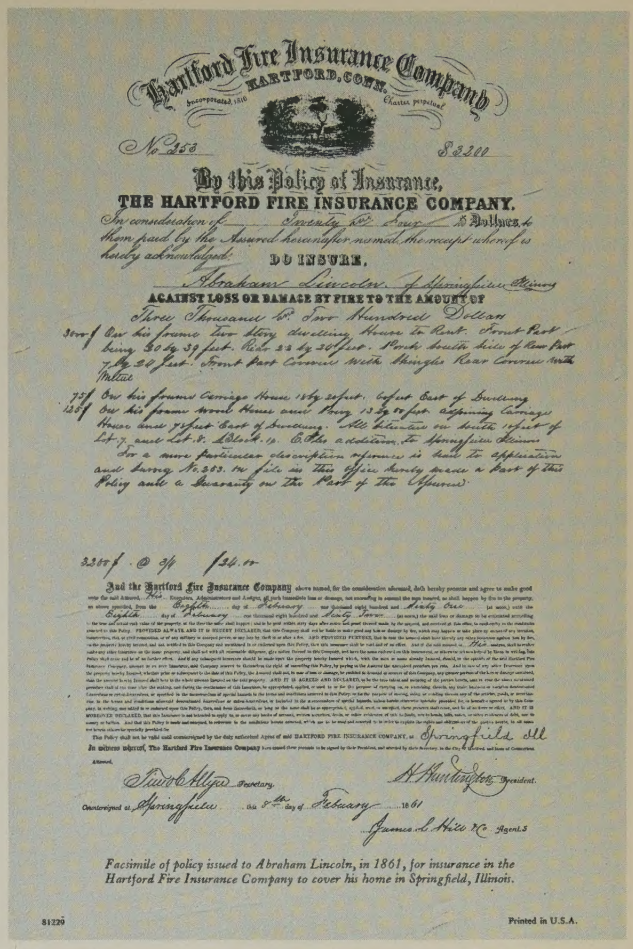
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS, May 29th 1860

Hon. A. Lincoln.
Springfield Ill.

Dear Sir. We enclose herewith Blanks for an application and medical examination, Hoping that we may be honored with the privilege of insuring your life. We also enclose Statement of our Company for 1859. If you should conclude to insure please fill up and sign enclosed blank application, and get any regular physician to make the examination. If you will give us your application for $2,000. we will take the cash payment when you are elected President and will charge you no interest from now to November. Yours respectfully L. O. Olmstead & Co. pr. W. H. Bridgman

2958

Photograph of letter made from the microfilm of the Robert Todd Lincoln Papers, Library of Congress. S. 1, No. 2958.


Hartford Fire Insurance Company
HARTFORD, CONN.
Incorporated 1810 Charter perpetual

No. 253 $3200

By this Policy of Insurance,
THE HARTFORD FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY,
In consideration of Twenty Five 25 Dollars to them paid by the Assured hereinafter named, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged,
DO INSURE,
Abraham Lincoln of Springfield Illinois
AGAINST LOSS OR DAMAGE BY FIRE TO THE AMOUNT OF
Three Thousand & Two Hundred Dollars
Store On his frame two story dwelling House to Rear Part being 30 by 32 feet. Pitch 22 by 26 feet. Stands South Side of Jackson Part 7 by 20 feet. Front Part Connects with Shingles Rear Connects with Metal.
77 On his frame Carriage House 18 by 24 feet. West East of Dwelling
1861 On his frame wood House and Shop 13 by 17 feet adjoining Carriage House one 7 feet East of Same. All situate on South 15 feet of Lot 7 and Lot 8. Block 19 Elkins addition to Springfield Illinois
For a more particular description reference is had to the application and Survey No. 253. on file in the Office and same a part of this Policy and a warranty on the Part of the Assured

3200 @ 34 $24.00

And the Hartford Fire Insurance Company above named, for the consideration aforesaid, doth hereby promise and agree to make good unto the said Assured, Heirs, Executors, Administrators and Assigns, all such immediate loss or damage, not exceeding in amount the sum insured, as shall happen by fire to the property, as above specified, from the Eighth day of February one thousand eight hundred and Sixty One (at noon,) until the Eighth day of February one thousand eight hundred and Sixty Two (at noon,) the said loss or damage to be ascertained according to the true and actual cash value of the property at the time the said actual cash loss by fire shall occur, but not beyond such sum as shall be sufficient to restore the property to the condition in which it was at the commencement of the risk, nor beyond the amount insured thereon, nor beyond the interest of the Assured therein, nor beyond the amount which the Assured is bona fide liable to pay therefor, nor beyond such proportion of the loss or damage on property similarly insured in this and other companies as the amount hereby insured bears to the whole insurance thereon, as hereinafter provided. PROVIDED ALWAYS AND IT IS HEREBY DECLARED, that this Company shall not be liable to make good any loss or damage by fire, which may happen or take place by means of any invasion, insurrection, riot, or civil commotion, or of any military or usurped power or any loss by theft or other wise. AND PROVIDED FURTHER, that in case this insurance shall be made to cover any property owned by, or held in trust or on commission, or sold but not delivered, or on storage, or for which the assured may be responsible, or which has been mortgaged or pledged, or which the Assured may have purchased but not taken away, or which may be held by the Assured under any other circumstances in the same property, and shall not at the time of any loss by fire, have an insurable interest to the extent herein insured, or which the Assured would be bound to insure, then, and in such case, this Policy shall cover and be for the benefit of the Assured only to the extent of such interest, and not otherwise. And in case of any other insurance upon the property hereby insured, whether prior or subsequent to the date of this Policy, the Assured shall not be entitled to recover on account of this Company any greater proportion of the loss or damage sustained than the amount hereby insured shall bear to the whole amount thereof on the said property. AND IT IS AGREED AND DECLARED, as far as the terms, nature and meaning of the policies hereto, and on which the notes are endorsed, provide that in case of any other insurance, and during the continuance of this insurance, by concurrent, equal, or prior policy of a company or companies, agency, or agencies, not represented in the Board of Directors of this Company, or specified in the memorandum of special hazards in the policy and endorsed thereon by the Secretary, notice of such other insurance shall be given to the home and Hartford agencies aforesaid immediately after the same shall be effected, and the number and amount of such other insurance, and the names of the companies interested therein, shall be stated in writing, and added to or endorsed upon this Policy, then, and from thenceforth, or may at the time shall be so given, this policy shall cease, or be void, as to all and to whom or which, AND IT IS HEREBY DECLARED, that this Insurance is not intended to apply to, or cover any bonds of servants, bills, notes, or other securities of any kind, or to any manuscripts, or to any money or bullion. And that this Policy is made and accepted, in reference to the conditions hereto annexed, which are to be considered as conditions of this insurance, and which are to be fully complied with, unless the non-performance of any of them shall be specially provided for.

The Policy shall not be valid until countersigned by the duly authorized Agent of said HARTFORD FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY, at Springfield Ill.
In witness whereof, The Hartford Fire Insurance Company have caused their seal to be hereto affixed, and these presents to be signed by their President, and attested by their Secretary, at the City of Hartford and State of Connecticut.

Attest. Jno. B. Allyn Secretary. A. Huntington President.

Countersigned at Springfield this 8th day of February 1861
James L. Hill & Co. Agents

Facsimile of policy issued to Abraham Lincoln, in 1861, for insurance in the Hartford Fire Insurance Company to cover his home in Springfield, Illinois.

81229 Printed in U.S.A.

This policy facsimile along with one issued to Robert E. Lee for $5,800 covering his home in Arlington, Virginia, has been distributed by The Hartford Insurance Group in an attractive Civil War centennial folder.

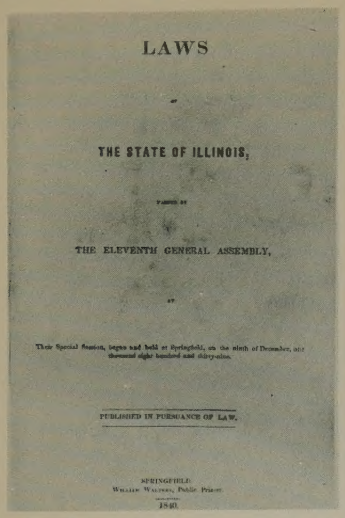
One must conclude that agent Bridgman was an enterprising young man, willing to gamble on Lincoln's election in November, 1860, otherwise who would pay the premium and interest if Lincoln had been defeated?

Lincoln did purchase a $3200 fire insurance policy on his frame two-story dwelling, with $75 coverage on his carriage house and privy. The Springfield, Illinois agency was James L. Hill & Company who represented the Hartford Fire Insurance Company of Hartford, Connecticut. The $3200 policy was written for one year, dated February 8, 1861. The premium was $24.00. This policy was taken just three days before Lincoln left Springfield for Washington, D. C., where he was inaugurated president of the United States.

The book "The Personal Finances of Abraham Lincoln" by Harry E. Pratt, The Abraham Lincoln Association, 1943, reveals that the initial fire insurance premium cost Lincoln $24.00 plus $1.40 for the bank draft. On February 8, 1862 the $24.00 premium was renewed. On February 7, 1863 the insurance on the house cost $24.25. On February 6, 1864 the premium of $24.00 was paid, and on February 10, 1865 the $24.00 insurance policy was again renewed.

*This letter was recently published in the *Blumhaven Digest*, Vol. 4, No. 1, Oct. 1960.

Lincoln's Legislative Career


LAWS

THE STATE OF ILLINOIS,

THE ELEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

PUBLISHED IN PURSUANCE OF LAW.

SPRINGFIELD:
WILLIS WALTERS, Public Printer.
1840.

Laws of Illinois, Special Session, Springfield, Walters, 1840.

On December 1, 1834 Abraham Lincoln took his seat in the lower house of the Ninth General Assembly at Vandalia, Illinois. He was one of the four Sangamon County members elected on August 4, 1834. Upon taking office he became one of the fifty-five members of the House of Representatives. He was re-elected in 1836, 1838 and 1840. He served until the end of the Twelfth General Assembly which adjourned on March 1, 1841.

Lincoln was elected to the Illinois Legislature for the fifth time on November 7, 1854. (See *Lincoln Lore* No. 1335, "The Approval Vote For Lincoln In 1854", November 8, 1954). In this election Lincoln received the largest number of votes (one more than Richard Yates) polled by a candidate for any office. Lincoln declined the office stating that "I only allowed myself to be elected because it was supposed my doing so would help Yates." Another reason for declining the seat in the Legislature was that it would make Lincoln ineligible for the Senate of the United States. He had, in the meantime, raised his political sights and hoped the Whigs would elect him a U. S. Senator in place of James Shields. Lincoln officially declined the office on November 25, 1854.

In any thorough study of Lincoln's legislative career it is necessary to consult the "Laws of The State of Illinois," the "Journals of the House of Representatives," and the special "Reports" for the years 1835 through 1841. Some of these volumes are extremely rare.

A complete list of the official publications of the State of Illinois for the period of Lincoln's legislative career follows:

Laws of the State of Illinois

**Laws of Illinois*, 9th Gen. Assembly, 1st Session, Vandalia, Sawyer, 1835.
**Laws of Illinois*, 9th Gen. Assembly, 2nd Session, Vandalia, Sawyer, 1836.
**Laws of Illinois*, 10th Gen. Assembly, Vandalia, Walters, 1837.
Private or Incorporation Laws of Illinois, Vandalia, Walters, 1837.
**Laws of Illinois*, Special Session, Vandalia, Walters, 1837.
**Laws of Illinois*, 11th Gen. Assembly, Vandalia, Walters, 1839.
Private or Incorporation Laws of Illinois, Vandalia, Walters, 1839.
**Laws of Illinois*, Special Session, Springfield, Walters, 1840.
**Laws of Illinois*, 12th Gen. Assembly, Springfield, Walters, 1841.

Journals of The House of Representatives

House Journal, 9th Gen. Assembly, Vandalia, Sawyer, 1835.
House Journal, 9th Gen. Assembly, 2nd Session, Vandalia, Sawyer, 1835.
House Journal, 10th Gen. Assembly, Vandalia, Walters, 1836.
**House Journal*, 10th Special Session, Vandalia, Walters, 1837.
**House Journal*, 11th General Assembly, Vandalia, Walters, 1838.
**House Journal*, 11th Called Session, Springfield, Walters, 1839.
**House Journal*, 12th Gen. Assembly, 1st Session, Springfield, Walters, 1840.

Reports

**Internal Improvement Reports*, Vandalia, Walters, 1838.
Illinois Reports, 11th Gen. Assembly, Vandalia, Walters, 1839.
Illinois Reports, 11th Gen. Assembly, 2nd Session, Springfield, Walters, 1840.
Internal Improvement Reports, Springfield, Walters, 1840.
Illinois Reports, 12th Gen. Assembly, Springfield, Walters, 1841.
*In the Lincoln National Life Foundation collection.

CUMULATIVE BIBLIOGRAPHY—1961

Selections approved by a Bibliography Committee consisting of the following members; Arnold Gates, 289 New Hyde Park Road, Garden City, N. Y.; Carl Haverlin, 2 Masterson Road, Bronxville, N. Y.; E. B. Long, 708 North Kenilworth Ave., Oak Park, Ill.; Richard F. Lufkin, 45 Milk Street, Boston, 9, Mass.; Wayne C. Temple, Lincoln Memorial University, Harrogate, Tenn.; Ralph G. Newman, 18 East Chestnut Street, Chicago 11, Ill., William H. Townsend, 310 First National Bank Bldg., Lexington 3, Ky.; and Clyde C. Walton, Illinois State Historical Library, Springfield, Ill.

New items available for consideration may be sent to the above addresses or to the Lincoln National Life Foundation.

HAYS, WILMA PITCHFORD **1961-19**

Abe Lincoln's Birthday/by Wilma Pitchford Hays/Illustrated by Peter Burchard/(device)/Coward-McCann, Inc. New York.
Brochure, boards, 6¾" x 9", 64 pp., illus., Juvenile, price $2.75.

HORGAN, PAUL **1961-20**

Paul Horgan/Citizen of New Salem/Illustrations by/Douglas Gorsline/New York/Farrar, Straus and Cudahy.
Book, boards and cloth, 6¼" x 9½", 90 pp., illus., price $3.75.

LINCOLN INAUGURAL CENTENNIAL COMMITTEE **1961-21**

Commemoration Ceremony/Upon the Occasion of the/One Hundredth/Anniversary Inaugural of/Abraham Lincoln/1861 * 1961/East Front/of the/United States Capitol/at/Eleven O'Clock Ante Meridiem/Washington, D. C. * March 4, 1961.
Pamphlet, paper, 6" x 9", 27 pp., fr., illus.

LINCOLN MEMORIAL UNIVERSITY **1961-22**

Lincoln Memorial University Press/Spring 1961/Vol. 63, No. 1/Lincoln Herald/A Magazine devoted to historical/research in the field of Lincolniana and/the Civil War, and to the promotion/of Lincoln Ideals in American/Education.
Pamphlet, flexible boards, 7" x 10", 52 pp., illus.

LINCOLN NATIONAL LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY **1961-23**

A Brief Life of/Abraham Lincoln/The Lincoln National Life Insurance Company/Form No. 8709/(Cover title).
Folder, paper, 3⅜", x 6¼", (3) pp.

MOCHIZUKI, MASAHARU **1961-24**

Books on Lincoln/Tokyo Lincoln Book Center/at/Japan Publications Trading Co. Ltd./No. Sarugaka-cho, 1-chrome, Kanda, Chiyoda-ku,/Tokyo, Japan/Japan/Lincoln Still Lives (translated)/(sketch of Lincoln)/1809-1865/Printed in Japan/April 1961/(Cover title).
Pamphlet, paper, 7" x 10", 7 pp. Bibliography of Japanese books and foreign books.

NEWMAN, RALPH G. **1961-25**

Pictorial History and Guide Book/New Salem State Park/Lincoln's New Salem/Illinois/(Lincoln photo)/Edited by Ralph G. Newman/First Berry-Lincoln Store and U. S. Post Office, Lincoln's New Salem, Illinois/(photo)/Abraham Lincoln Served as Postmaster of New Salem from May 7, 1833 to May 30, 1836/(Cover title).
Pamphlet, flexible boards, 5½" x 7¾", (20) pp., colored illustrations. Color photos by O. F. Brockmeyer. Copyright by Curt Teich & Co., Inc., Chicago.